

Focus Area #2: PLACEMENT STABILITY FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE
Quarterly Report for July, August, and September 2008

Goal	Baseline	Process Measure	Date Due	Quarterly Progress
Increase the percentage of children in foster care who experience two or fewer placements while in foster care for: 1. Less than 12 months 2. 12-24 months 3. More than 24 months	1. Less than 12 months - 76.9% 2. 1 to 24 months - 46.2% 3. More than 24 months - 15.2%	Increase percentage of children in foster care with two or fewer placements for each length of stay period.	Quarterly	See information below.
1. With regions, evaluate regional plans for placement stability and modify as needed.		Regional plans with modifications	September 2009 and ongoing	Regions were asked to report on their placement stability plans to the Trends Analysis Committee. Southwest Region reported that they are continuing to follow their plan, but do not know if it has made a difference in placement stability. Eastern Region reports that their plan is no longer the focus of their region and has been replaced by a creative interventions plan that they believe will help with placement stability. The remaining regions will bring information to the next Trends Analysis Committee meeting, where the plans will be discussed and suggestions will be made for modifications based on the data.
2. Provide information and technical assistance to regional staff on placement stability.		-Child welfare update -Documentation of regional contacts	July 2008 and ongoing	The program administrators again went to all regions and provided additional kinship and follow-up training sessions to region staff regarding the new kinship protocol, which includes providing support and resources for

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				<p>kinship placements in order to maintain the placement. Program administrators have provided technical assistance to all regions as they have implemented this process.</p> <p>In addition, efforts continue to be made to work with community partners in order to provide kinship providers with enough support to sustain kinship placements with children in custody.</p> <p>A summit regarding the importance and need for stable and permanent placements for all children in care was piloted in the Northern Region. Assistance was given to line staff to help them understand the importance of finding a family for all children and not allowing children to remain in care for the long term. Plans will be made to continue these “permanency summits” statewide.</p> <p>The Practice Improvement Team (PIT) clarified the Long-Term View concept and developed a training to help caseworkers to better understand it. The definition of Long-Term View is “The path to enduring safety and permanency for children”. The PIT is</p>

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				in the process of presenting this to all regions. Western, Salt Lake Valley, and Northern Regions have had the presentation. Southwest and Eastern Regions will be trained by the end of October.
3. Assess policies and explore resources for foster parent support (such as respite care, resource family consultants, crisis response, compensation rates).		-Completed reports. -As approved for implementation, practice guidelines and/or organizational changes implemented.	Ongoing, with quarterly progress reports	<p>Resource Family Consultant (RFC) supervisors/coordinators have met twice this quarter to talk about concerns and issues in their regions regarding placement stability and to begin working on ways to improve placement stability. A RFC coordinator meeting is held every other month, with plans to hold conference calls on the months they do not meet and problem solve any issues and concerns.</p> <p>A Respite Workgroup was convened in August to work on modifying and improving respite policy. The workgroup was able to reach a consensus on some respite proposals and will continue work into the next quarter in order to finalize the proposal and present it to the State Administrative Team.</p> <p>As a result of the Congregate Care Workgroup recommendations, Child and Family Services is preparing a</p>

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				building block grant for funding for more RFCs, as well as crises response for foster and kinship families.
4. Develop funding plan for increased support for foster care providers to present to Department administration and the legislature.		Funding plan complete	June 2009	Child and Family Services is currently working on a building block request to go to the legislature for the next session in order to raise foster parent rates.
5. Evaluate use of shelters for children removed from home and explore alternative options for initial placement.		Written report	June 2008	Since receipt of the report from the Congregate Care Workgroup, the director of Child and Family Services has chartered an Implementation Workgroup. The Permanency and Child Protective Services program administrators have been meeting with the regions to review current protocol and examine the recommendations of the Congregate Care Workgroup in order to inform the regions of the proposed changes and form a plan as to how to implement the recommendations. These meetings will continue into the next quarter, as well as meetings with foster parents and community partners to get feedback and hear concerns. There will also be meetings to plan for implementation of the recommendations. There are several areas within the recommendations that will require changes in practice

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				guidelines, financial strategies, education of staff, design of data system, etc.
6. Continue to coordinate with the Utah Foster Care Foundation and the Office of Licensing to increase recruitment and licensing of potential foster families, provide support, and train in division practices and need for flexibility in accepting diverse children.		Reports of recruitment levels reported at State and regional meetings with UFCF and OL	Quarterly	<p>Foundations for Youth training sessions continue to be implemented by Child and Family Services and the Utah Foster Care Foundation in order to help both Child and Family Services staff and foster parents understand the requirements for youth 14 and older in care, especially in regards to the Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment and how it can be implemented into the service planning process. The curriculum also addresses the need for families caring for youth to be flexible and accept the diversity of the youth.</p> <p>A quarterly meeting was implemented and will be held regularly with the Utah Foster Care Foundation in order to keep them apprised of upcoming changes in policy so they may in turn ensure that foster parents are being trained correctly.</p> <p>A workgroup formed by the Department of Human Services to examine the licensing process submitted recommendations to the Department in order to increase the ability to license foster parents in a</p>

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				timely manner. The recommendations are being reviewed by the executive director of the Department of Human Services.